

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2003

Contact: Lee Ann Mayo

601-359-2777

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement today regarding Mississippi homeland security:

"Today, we are deploying Mississippi National Guard troops to areas of increased concern for potential attack. These prevention measures are taken to ensure the protection of our people and resources in the state and will augment security forces already in place. The following areas are included: Port of Biloxi; Port of Bienville; Port of Natchez; Port of Vicksburg; Port of Greenville; Port of Gulfport; Port of Pascagoula; and Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility.

"Approximately forty-four personnel have been deployed from units in Biloxi, Greenville, Mendenhall, McComb, Natchez, Ocean Springs, Poplarville, and Tylertown. The troops will be in place by 6:00 P.M. CST.

"The Mississippi Homeland Security Council has met twice today and will continue to assess protection and prevention measures. A plan of action will be presented to me as soon as possible with recommendations for the next forty-eight to seventy-two hours and in the event of an escalation of the threat level to red alert."

###